

NOAA Climate Science & Services

Monthly Climate Update

A look back at May/Spring and a preview for July – September

Jake Crouch

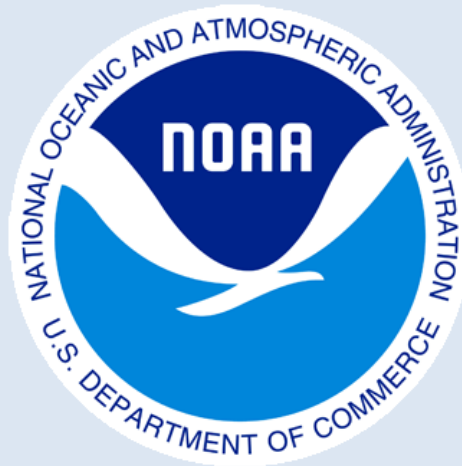
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Fire Weather Program Manager
NOAA's National Weather Service – Western
Region

Dave Unger

Seasonal Forecaster, Operations Branch
NOAA's Climate Prediction Center

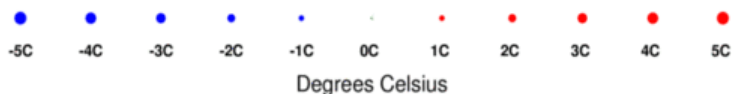
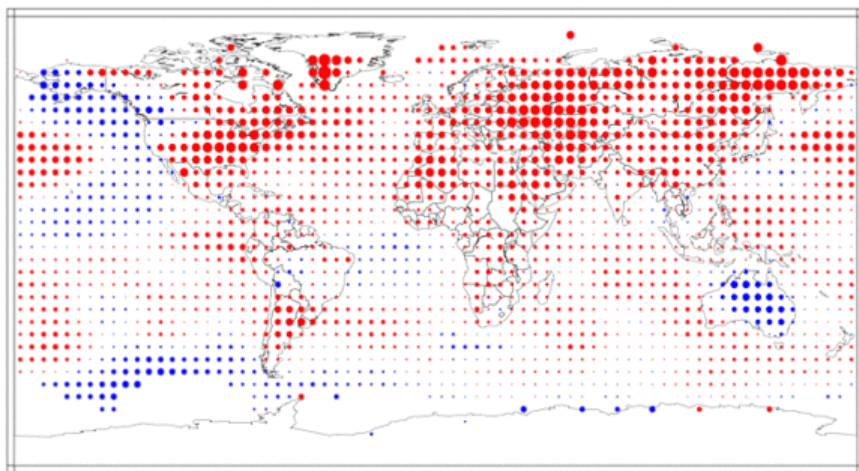


Global Climate Highlights

Temperature Anomalies May 2012

(with respect to a 1971-2000 base period)

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



May 2012 Precipitation:

- For only the third time, two tropical storms formed in the N. Atlantic during May.

Dry: Central U.S., India, Australia, Brazil.

Wet: Central America, Thailand, eastern Europe.

Snow: N. Hemisphere snow cover – 2nd smallest. Record small across Eurasia.

May 2012 Temperatures:

- 2nd warmest May globally (+.66°C/1.19°F).
- Land 1st warmest; Ocean 10th warmest.
- N. Hemisphere: warmest May on record.
- 7th warmest boreal spring (March-May).

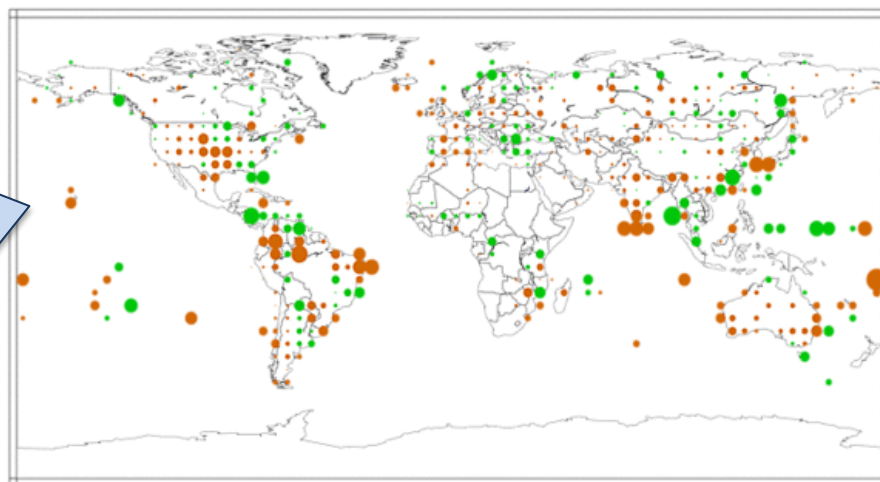
Regional Analysis:

- Most land areas warmer than average, except Alaska and Australia.
- ENSO-neutral conditions across Pacific.

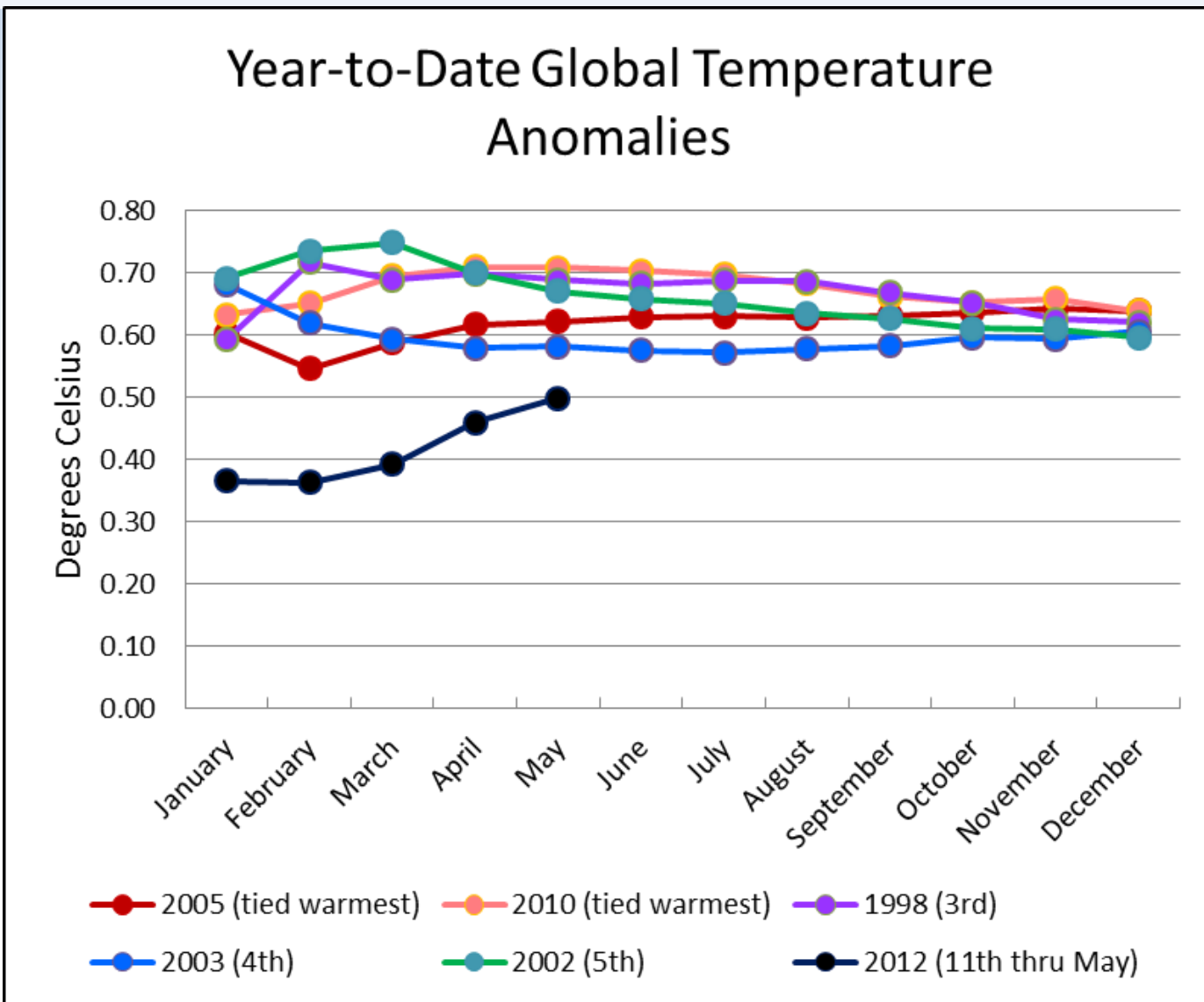
Precipitation Anomalies May 2012

(with respect to a 1961-1990 base period)

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Global Climate Highlights



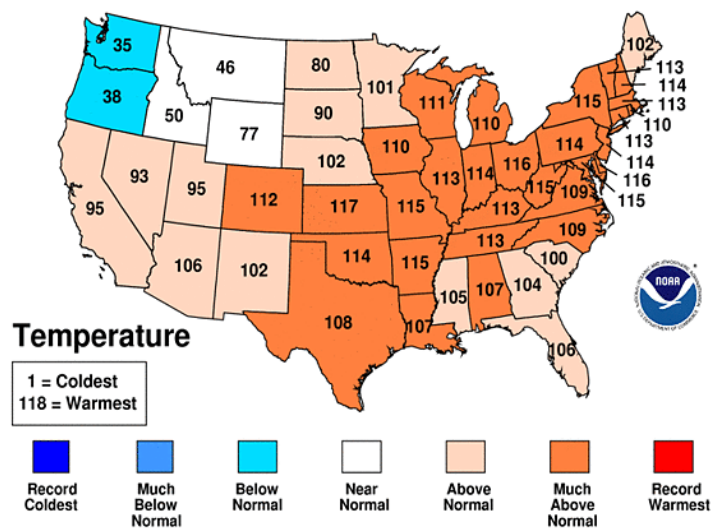
U.S. Climate Highlights

Nationally: 2nd Warmest May/Warmest Spring

- **May:** Warm East of the Rockies and Southwest.
 - National temperature 3.3°F above average.
 - 26 states top ten warm for the month.
- **Spring:** Warmest March, 3rd warmest April, 2nd warmest May
 - 31 states record warm additional 11 states top ten warm. Only Washington and Oregon “near normal”.
 - Largest warm departure from average of any season.

May 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



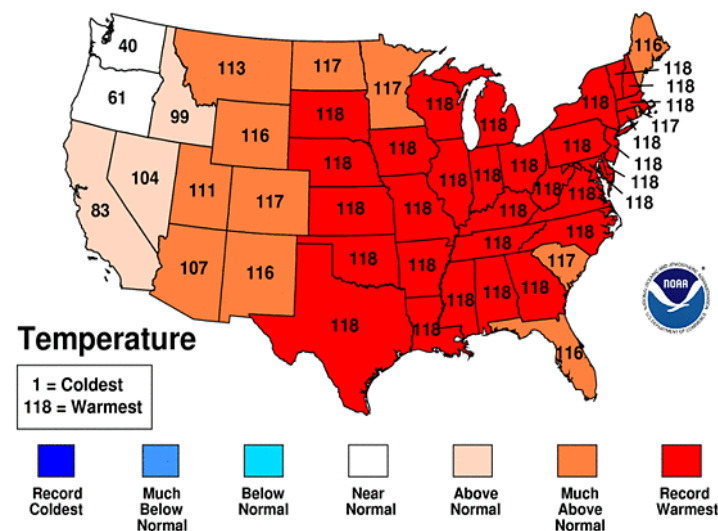
NATIONAL (CONTIGUOUS U.S.)

Spring 2012: warmest spring on record
Top 10 seasonal temperature anomalies

1st	Spring 2012	+5.2°F
2nd	Winter 1999/00	+4.2°F
3rd	Winter 1998/99	+4.1°F
4th	Winter 1991/92	+3.9°F
	Winter 2011/12	+3.9°F
6th	Winter 1997/98	+3.7°F
7th	Winter 2001/02	+3.4°F
8th	Winter 1994/95	+3.2°F
	Spring 1910	+3.2°F
	Winter 1953/54	+3.2°F

March-May 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



U.S. Climate Highlights

Nationally: 27th Driest May/Drier-than-average Spring

May

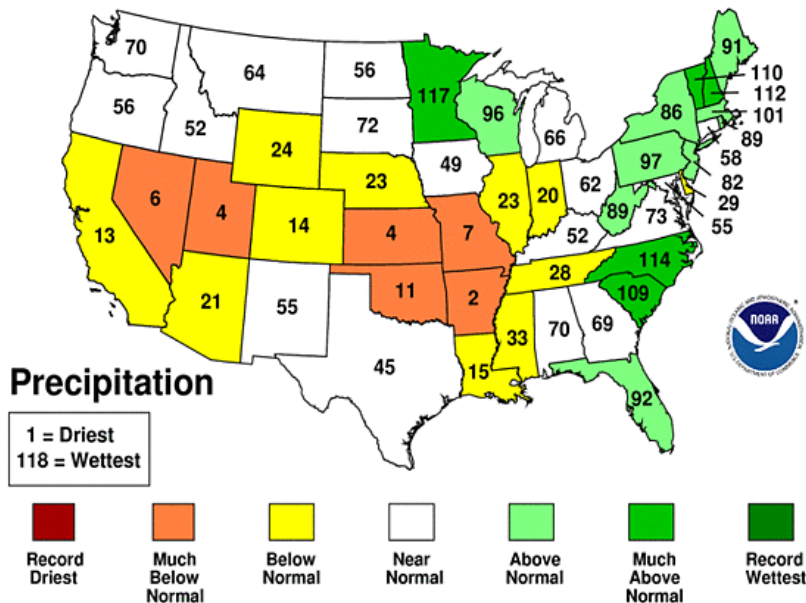
- Wet along the East Coast and Upper Midwest.
- Dry in Mid-Mississippi Valley and Interior West.

Spring

- Wet in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon record wet.
- Dry in the Interior West and Ohio Valley.

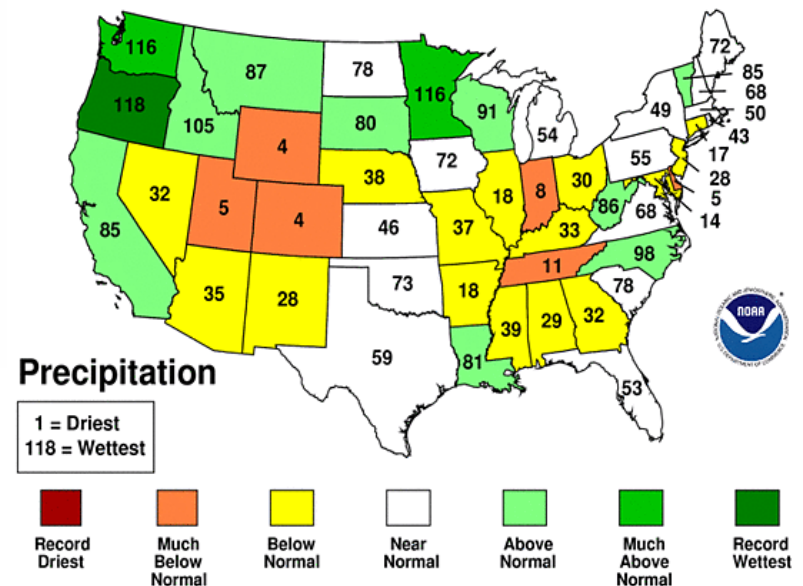
May 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



March-May 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

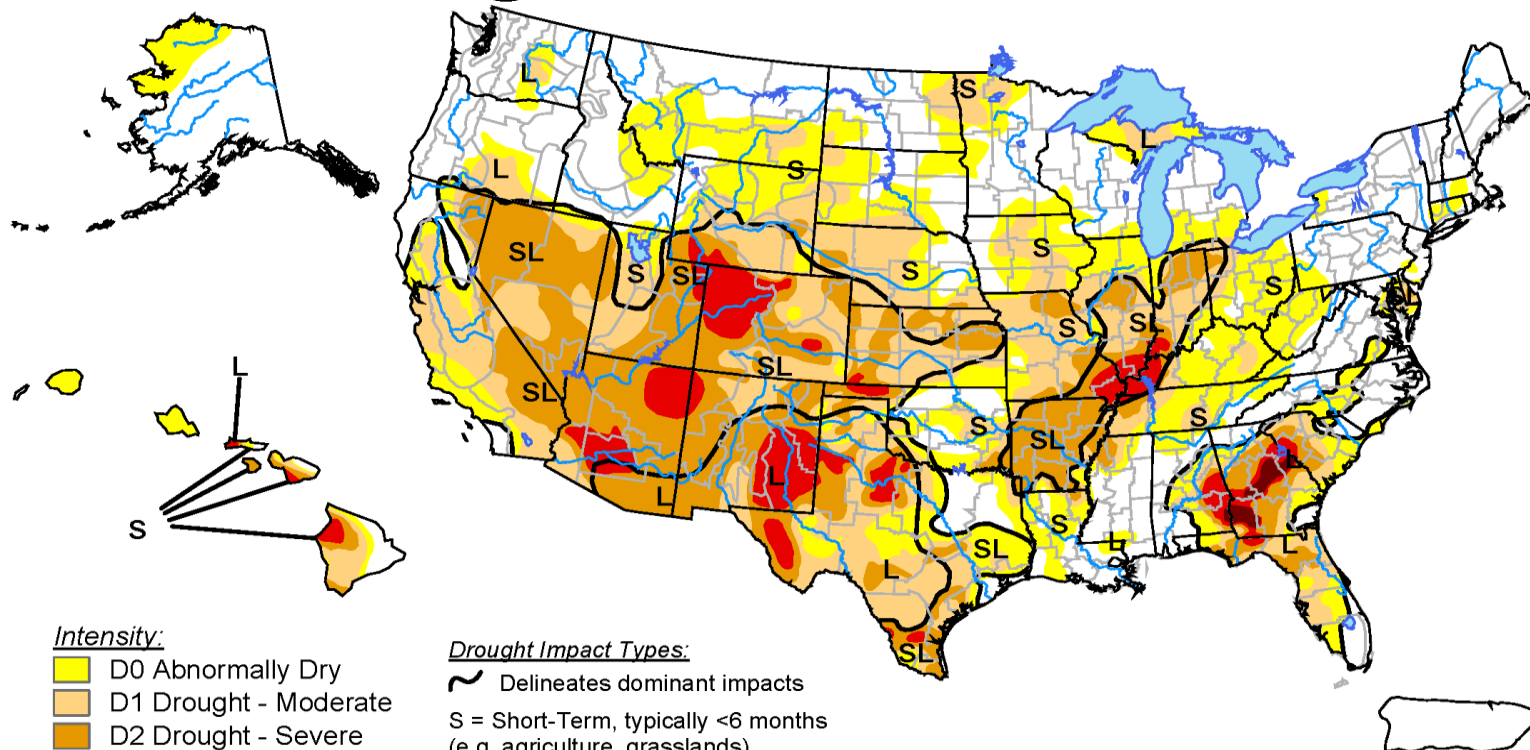


U.S. Climate Highlights

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 19, 2012

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



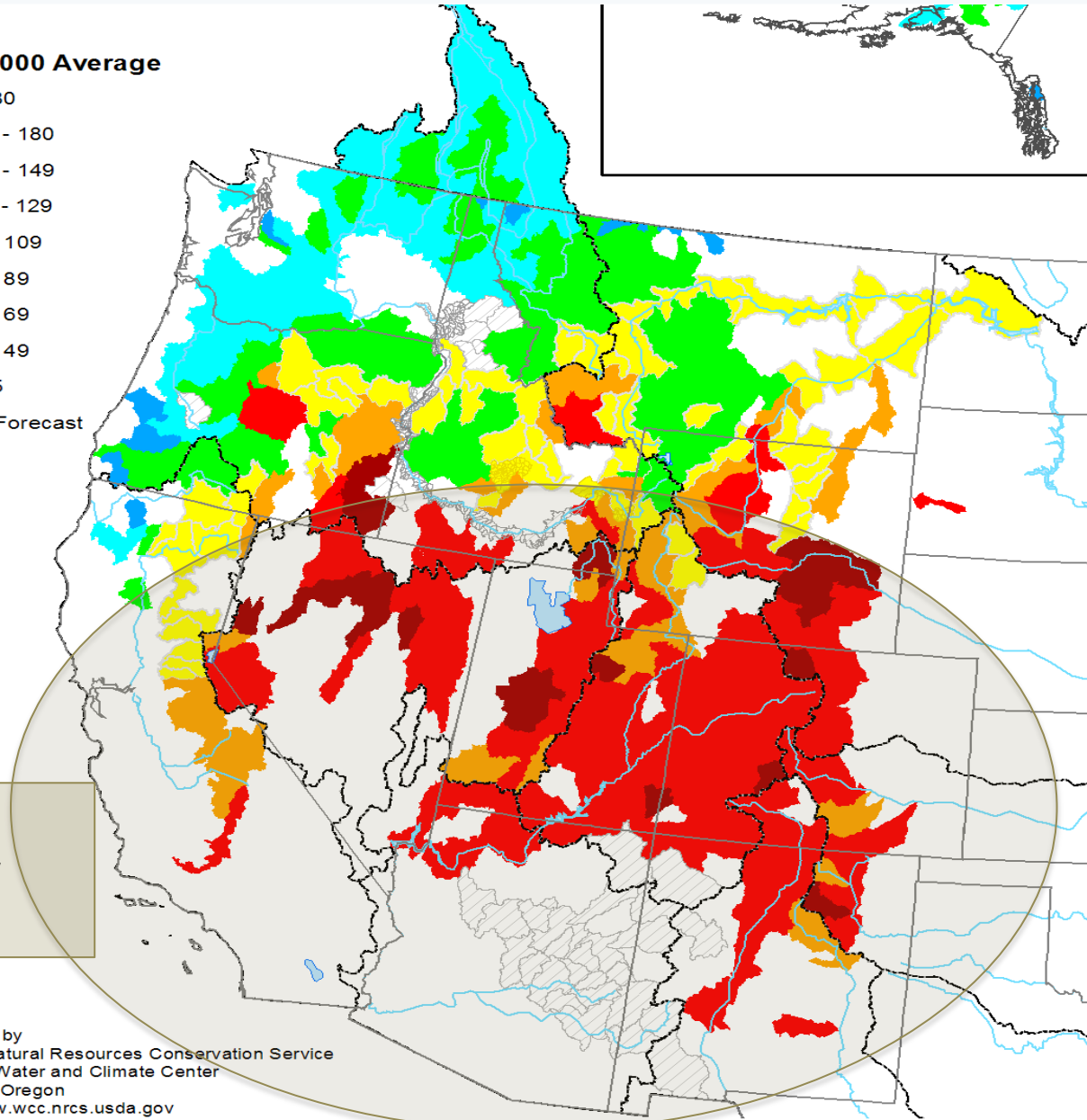
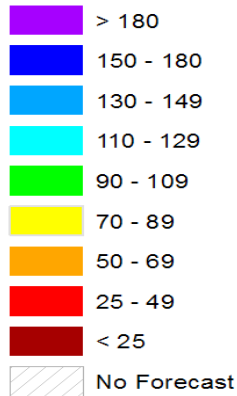
Released Thursday, June 21, 2012

Author: Richard Heim/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

Western U.S. Water Supply

Percent

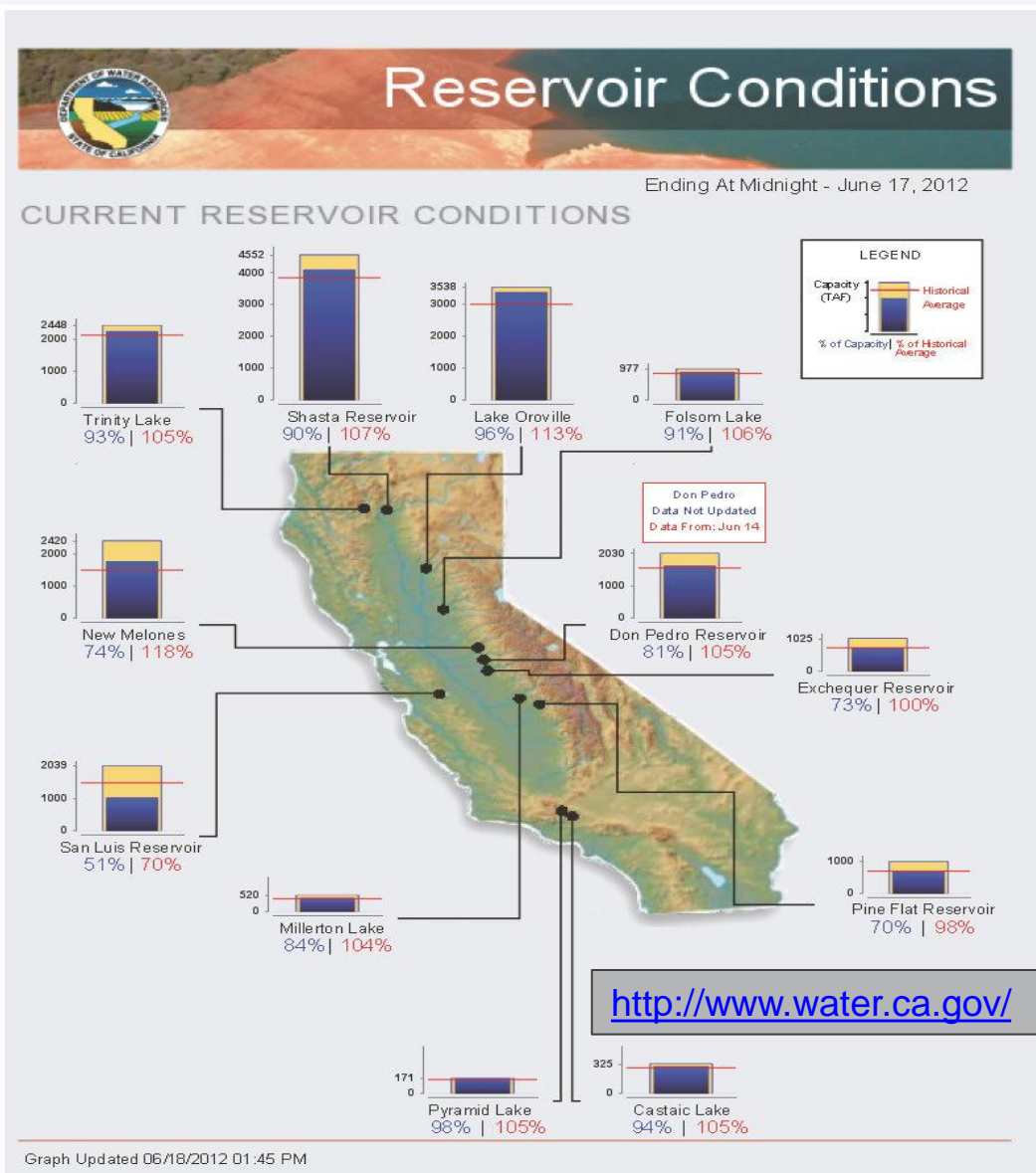
1971 to 2000 Average



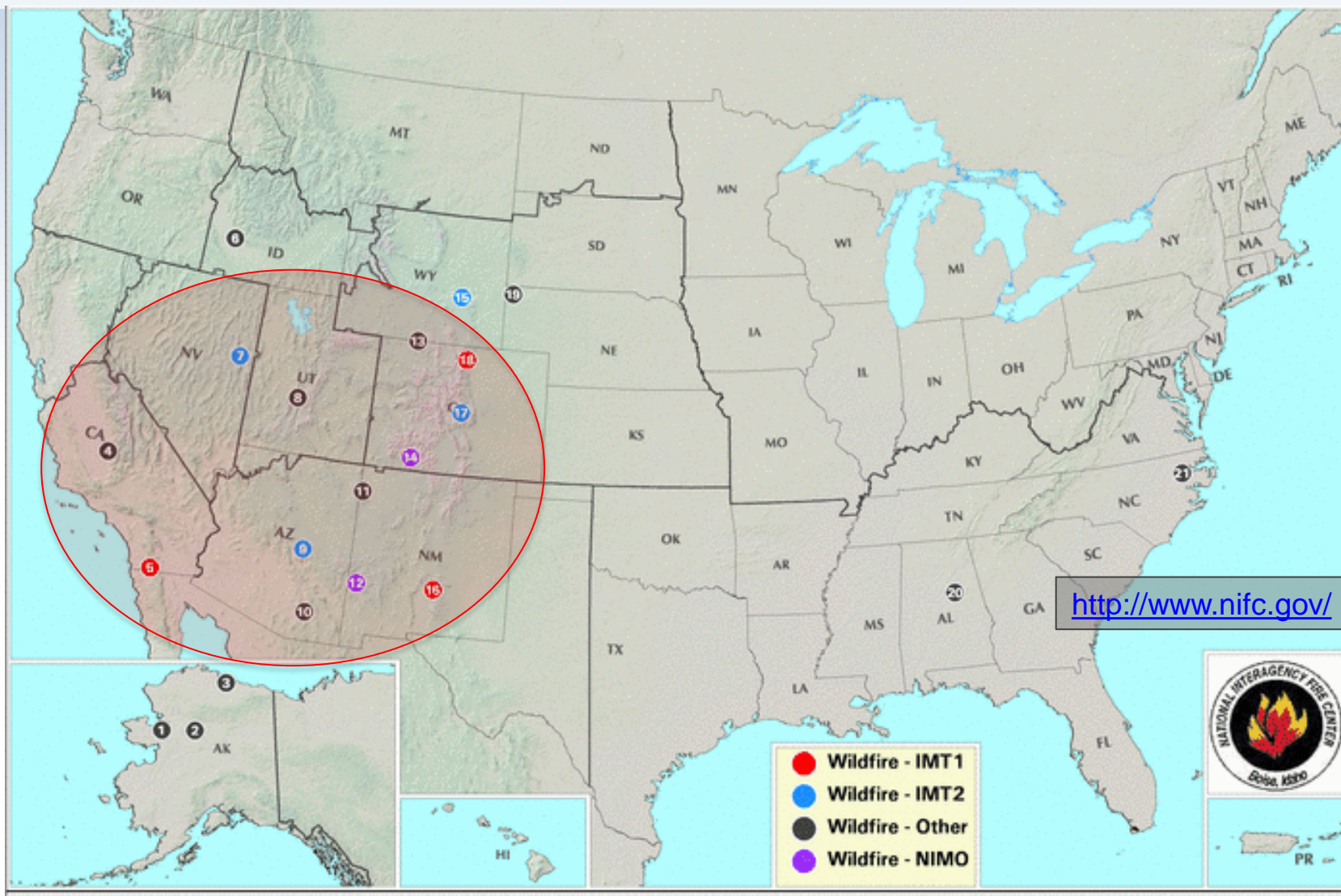
50% or less
average winter
precipitation

Prepared by
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

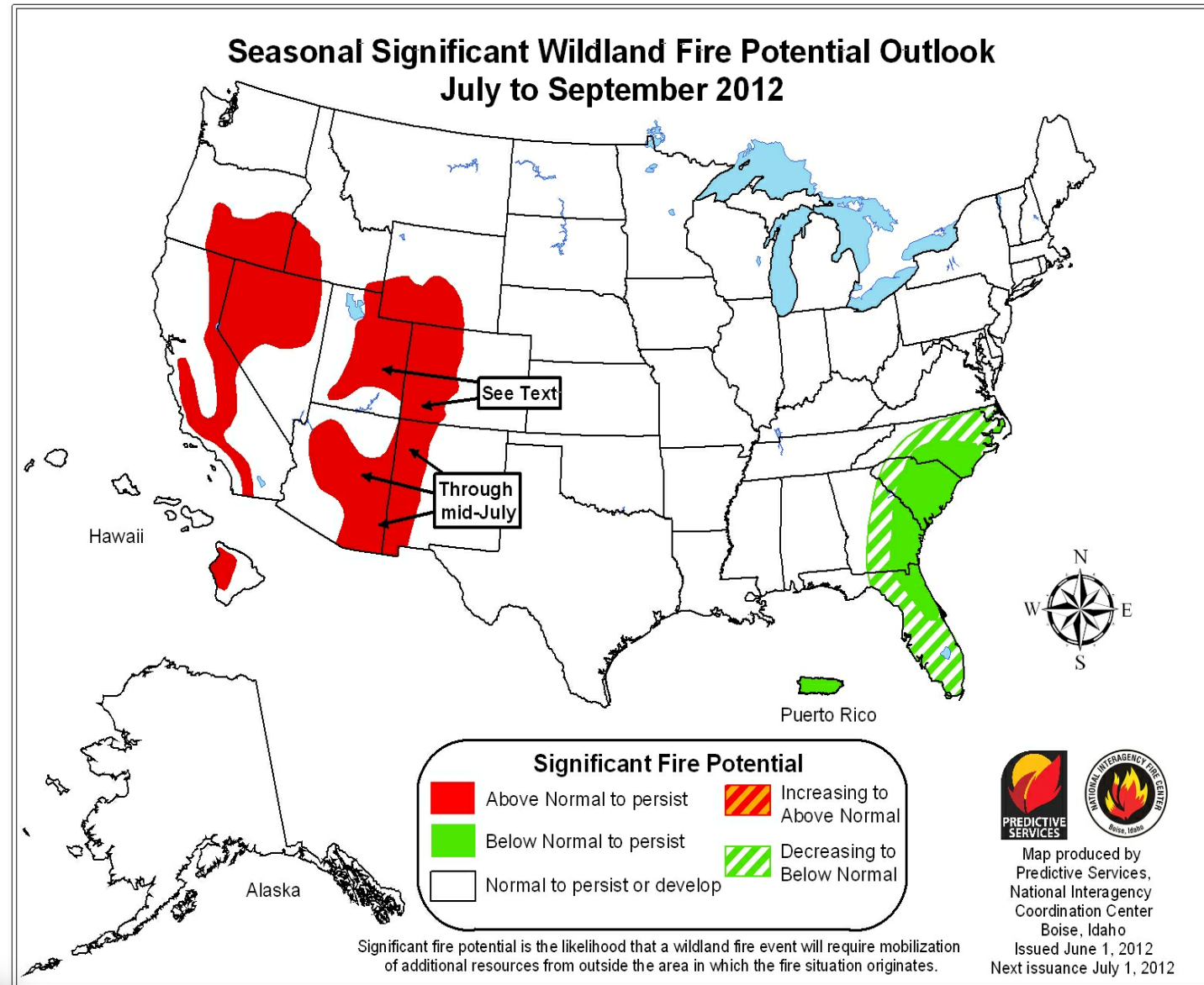
California Reservoir Storage



Current Large Wildfires



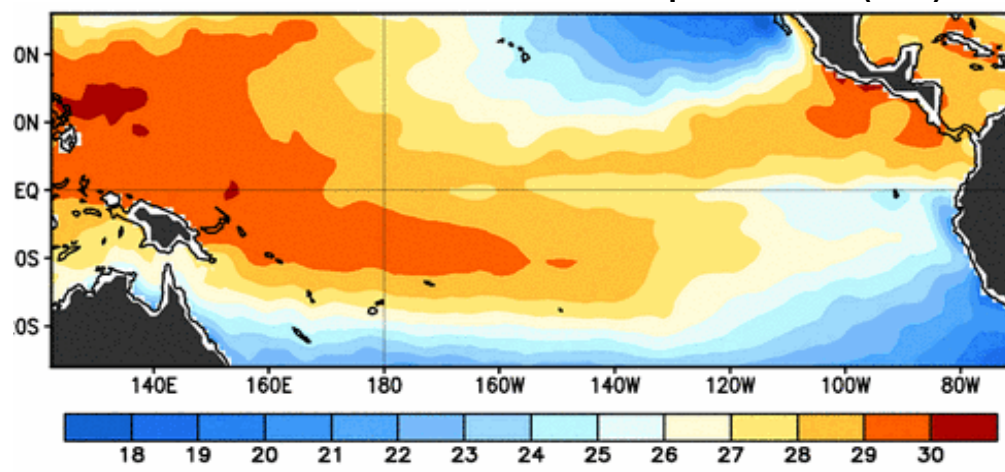
Summer Wildfire Potential Outlook



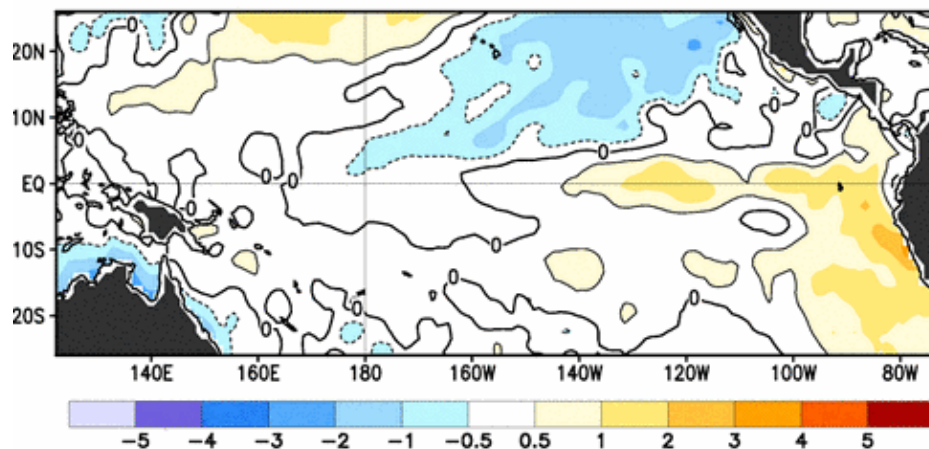
Latest Sea Surface Temperatures

**La Niña Has
Dissipated -- ENSO
Neutral
Conditions**

Observed Sea Surface Temperature (°C)



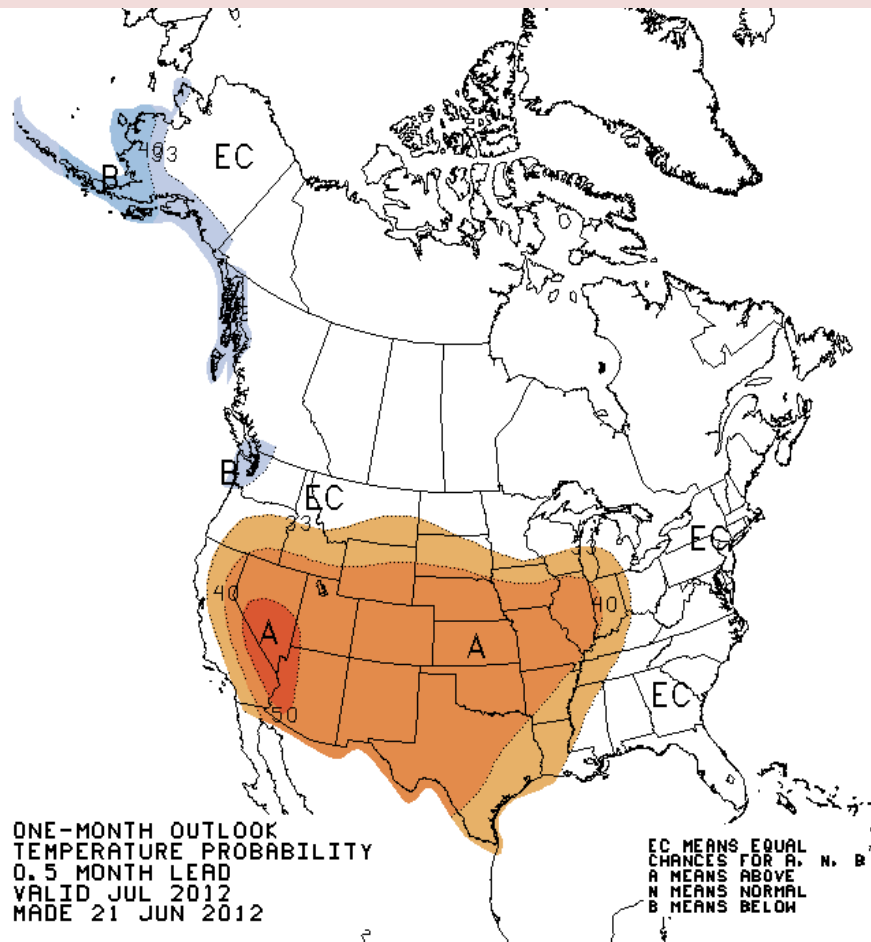
Observed Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)



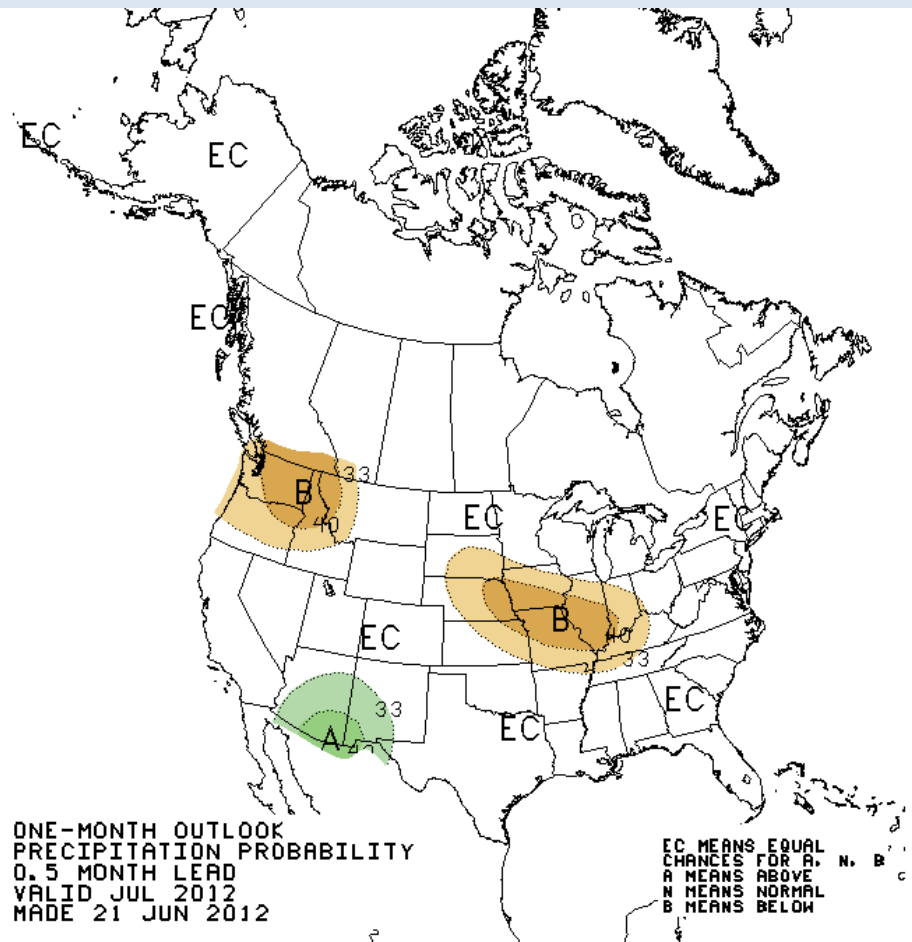
7-day Average Centered on June 13, 2012

1-Month Temperature and Precipitation Forecast

JULY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY

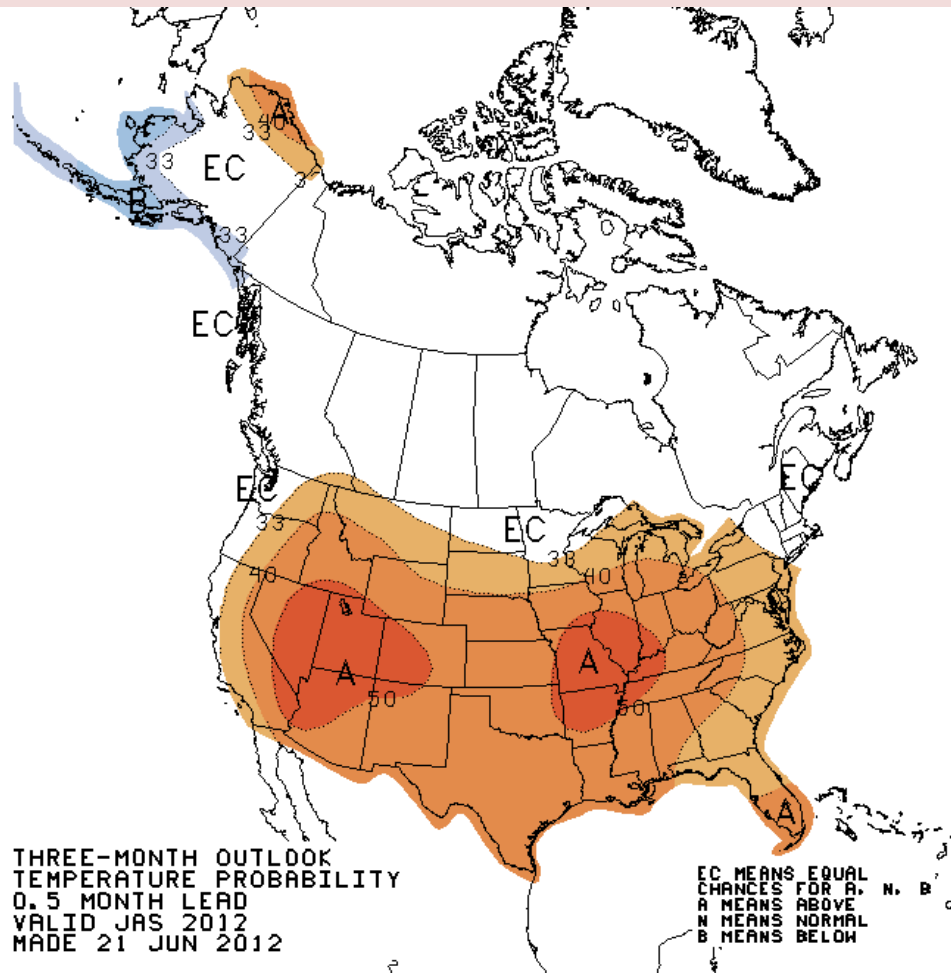


JULY TOTAL PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY

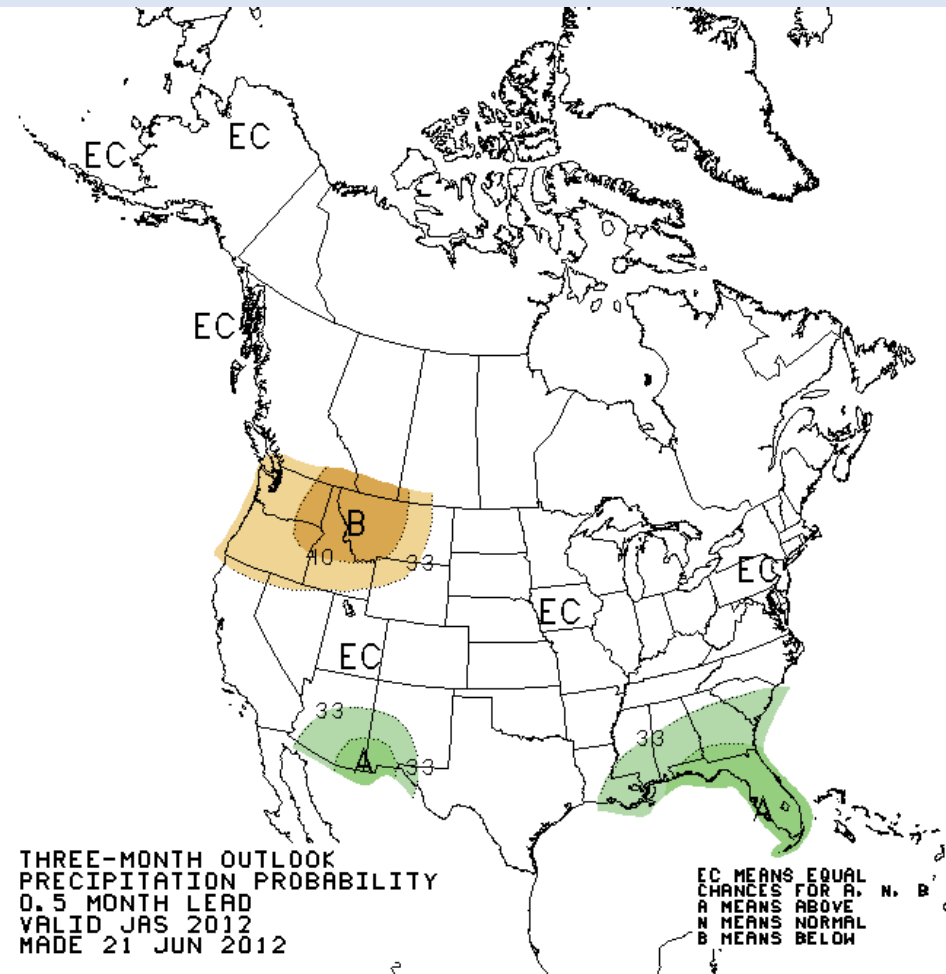


3-Month Temperature and Precipitation Forecast

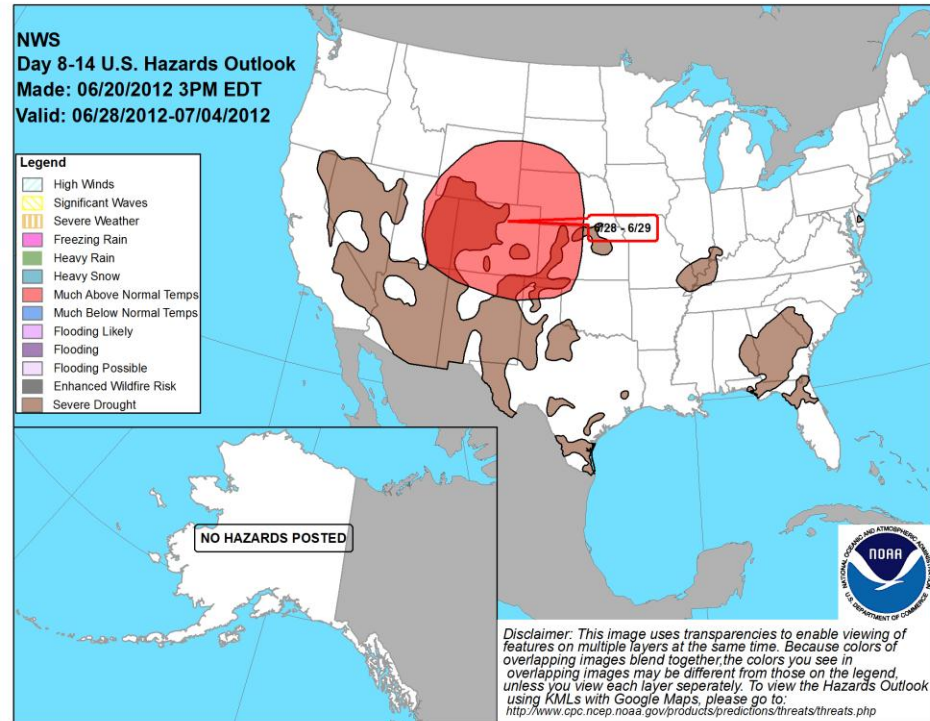
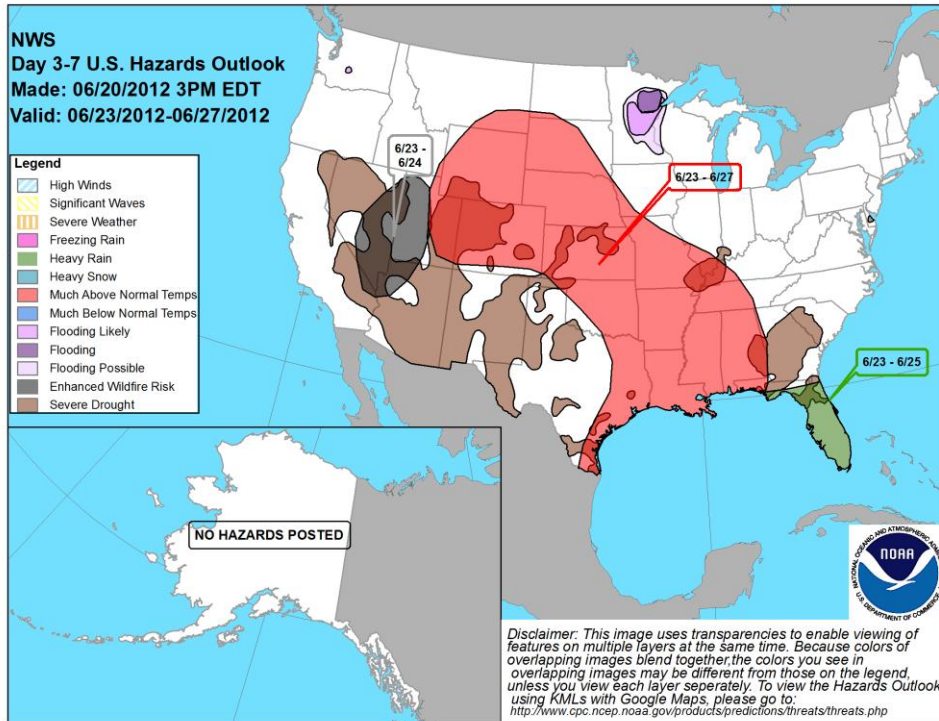
JUL-AUG-SEP AVERAGE TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY



JUL-AUG-SEP TOTAL PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY



Latest U.S. Hazards Outlook for Days 3-14



For More Information



Today's Presentation:

- <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/briefings>

NOAA's National Climatic Data Center: www.ncdc.noaa.gov

- Monthly climate reports (U.S. & Global): www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center: www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

U.S. Drought Monitor: www.drought.gov

Climate Portal: www.climate.gov

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